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SHOGUN WARRIORS™
1ST ISSUE
COLLECTOR'S ITEM!
TRIMPE - MILGROM

Stan Lee PRESENTS: SHOGUN WARRIORS™

DOUG MOENCH WRITER / HERB TRIMPE ARTIST / DAN GREEN INKER / JIM NOVAK- letterer / ANDY YANCHUS-colorist / AL MILGROM EDITOR / JIM SHOOTER EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

TODAY, A WARRIOR SPAWNED IN THE DIM PAST, CREATED BY A SCIENCE OF THE FAR FUTURE, SHALL FIGHT HIS FIRST BATTLE, FINDING TRIUMPH IN FAILURE, FAILURE IN TRIUMPH.

TODAY IS THE DAY MARKED FOR THE FIRST OF THE MIGHTY SHOGUN WARRIORS. HE WHO IS CALLED...

RAYDEEN!

AND RAYDEEN'S FIRST CALL TO BATTLE BRINGS HIM TO THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOKYO, JAPAN--WHERE THE POPULACE IS MENACED BY AN AWESOME TENTACLED CREATURE!

AS RAYDEEN ARRIVES, THIS MONSTER SPEAKS FOR THE FIRST TIME...

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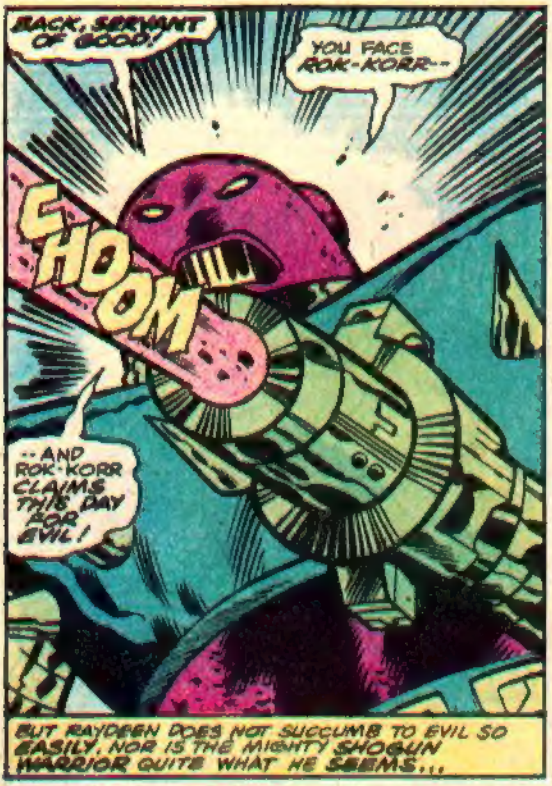
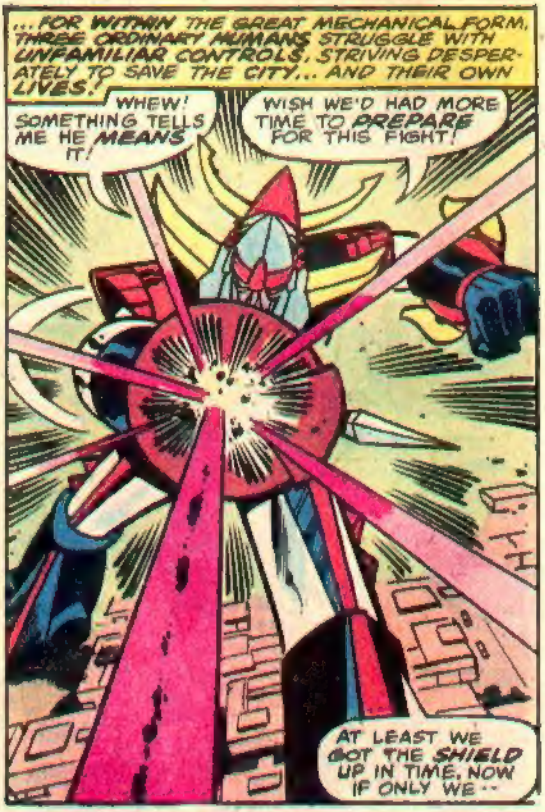
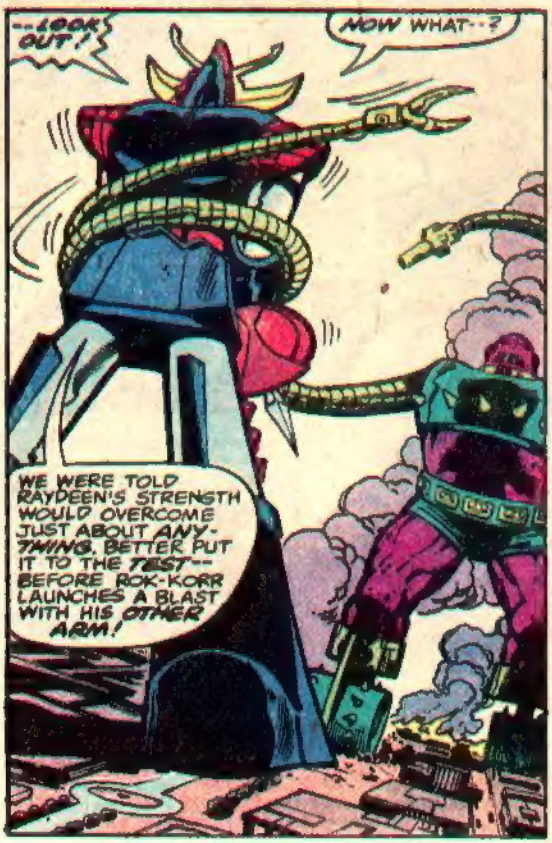
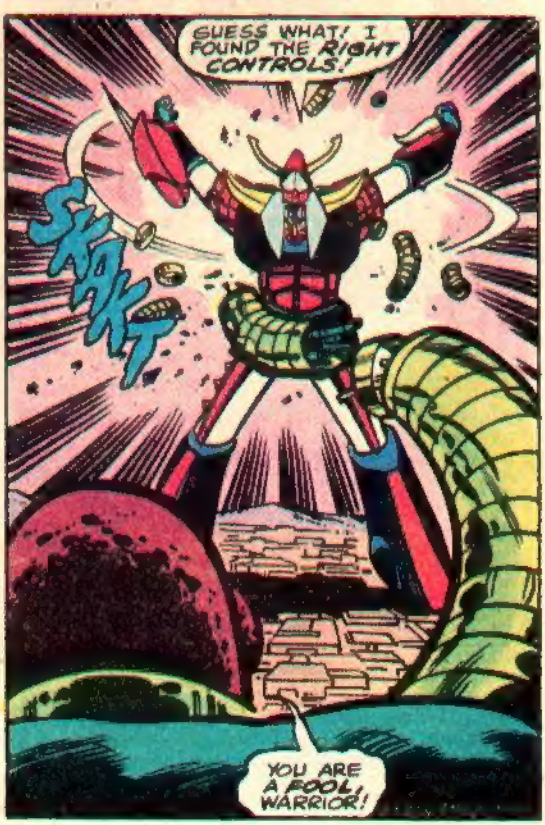
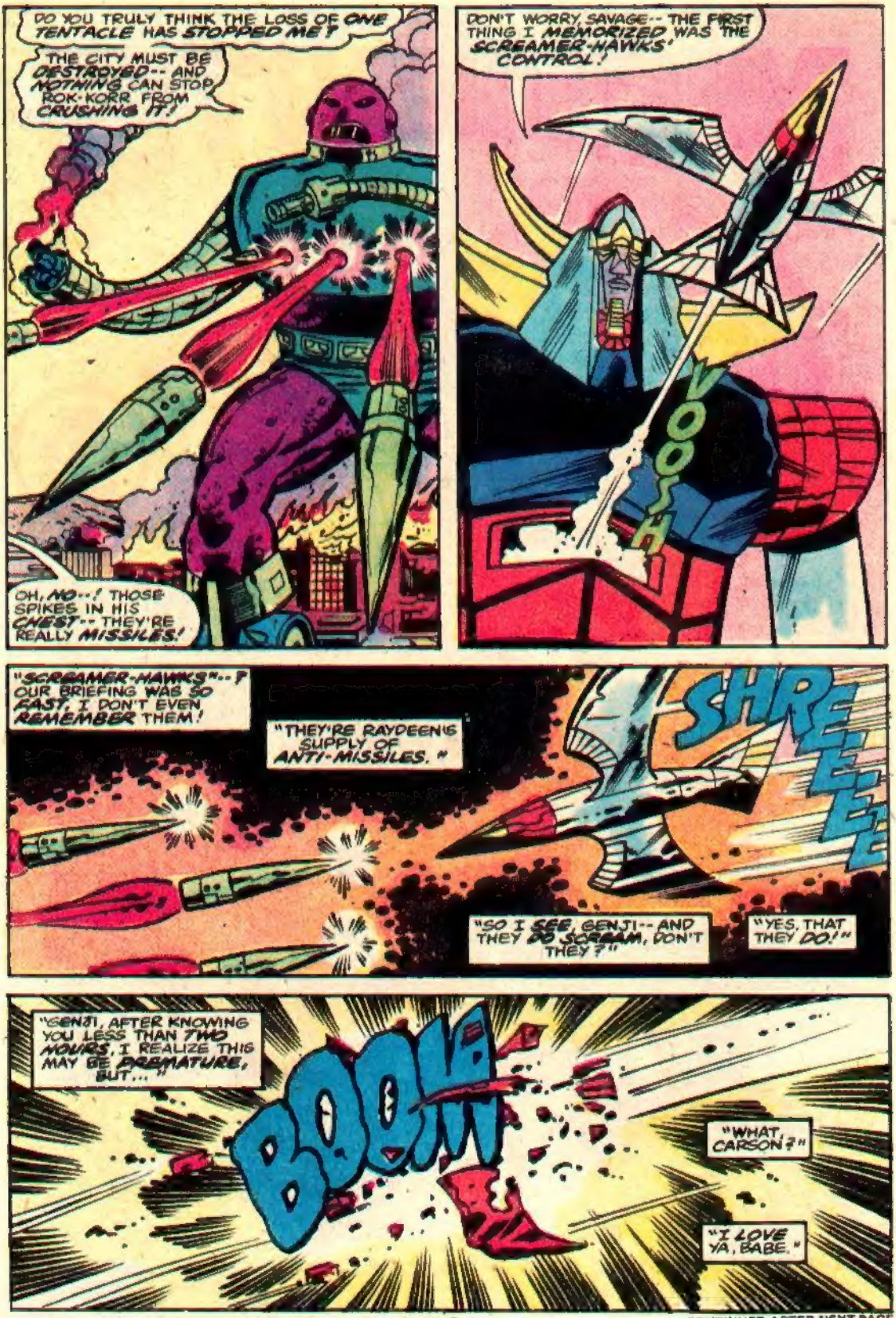

BACK, SERVANT OF GOOD!
YOU FACE ROK-KORR--
KHOOM
--AND ROK-KORR CLAIMS THIS DAY FOR EVIL!
BUT RAYDEEN DOES NOT SUCCUMB TO EVIL SO EASILY, NOR IS THE MIGHTY SHOGUN WARRIOR QUITE WHAT HE SEEMS...


...FOR WITHIN THE GREAT MECHANICAL FORM, THREE ORDINARY HUMANS STRUGGLE WITH UNFAMILIAR CONTROLS, STRIVING DESPERATELY TO SAVE THE CITY... AND THEIR OWN LIVES!
WHEW! SOMETHING TELLS ME HE MEANS IT!
WISH WE'D HAD MORE TIME TO PREPARE FOR THIS FIGHT!
AT LEAST WE GOT THE SHIELD UP IN TIME, NOW IF ONLY WE--


--LOOK OUT!
NOW WHAT--?
WE WERE TOLD RAYDEEN'S STRENGTH WOULD OVERCOME JUST ABOUT ANYTHING. BETTER PUT IT TO THE TEST--BEFORE ROK-KORR LAUNCHES A BLAST WITH HIS OTHER ARM!


GUESS WHAT! I FOUND THE RIGHT CONTROLS!
SKAKT
YOU ARE A FOOL, WARRIOR!


DO YOU TRULY THINK THE LOSS OF ONE TENTACLE HAS STOPPED ME?
THE CITY MUST BE DESTROYED-- AND NOTHING CAN STOP ROK-KORR FROM CRUSHING IT!
OH, NO--! THOSE SPIKES IN HIS CHEST-- THEY'RE REALLY MISSILES!
DON'T WORRY, SAVAGE-- THE FIRST THING I MEMORIZED WAS THE SCREAMER-HAWKS' CONTROL!
VOOOSH
"SCREAMER-HAWKS"-- OUR BRIEFING WAS SO FAST, I DON'T EVEN REMEMBER THEM!
"THEY'RE RAYDEEN'S SUPPLY OF ANTI-MISSILES."
SHREEEEE
"SO I SEE, GENJI-- AND THEY DO SCREAM, DON'T THEY?"
"YES, THAT THEY DO!"
"GENJI, AFTER KNOWING YOU LESS THAN TWO HOURS, I REALIZE THIS MAY BE PREMATURE, BUT..."
BOOM
"WHAT, CARSON?"
"I LOVE YA, BABE."

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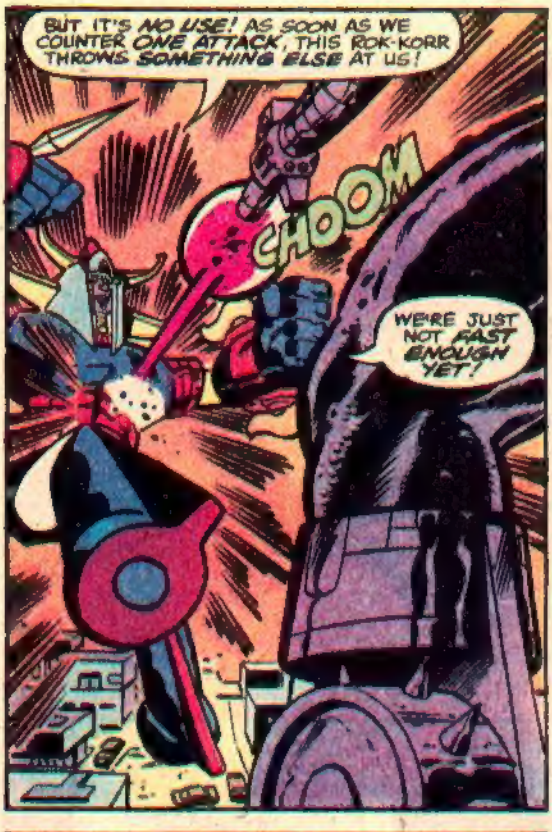
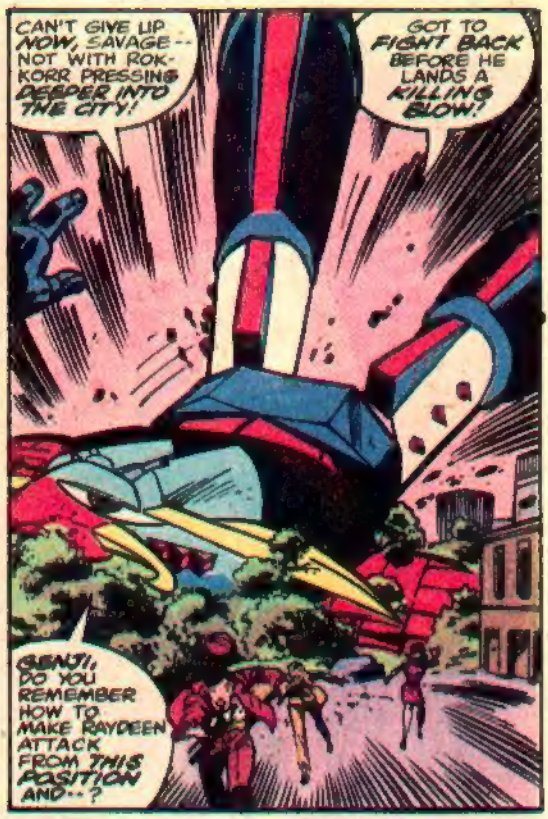
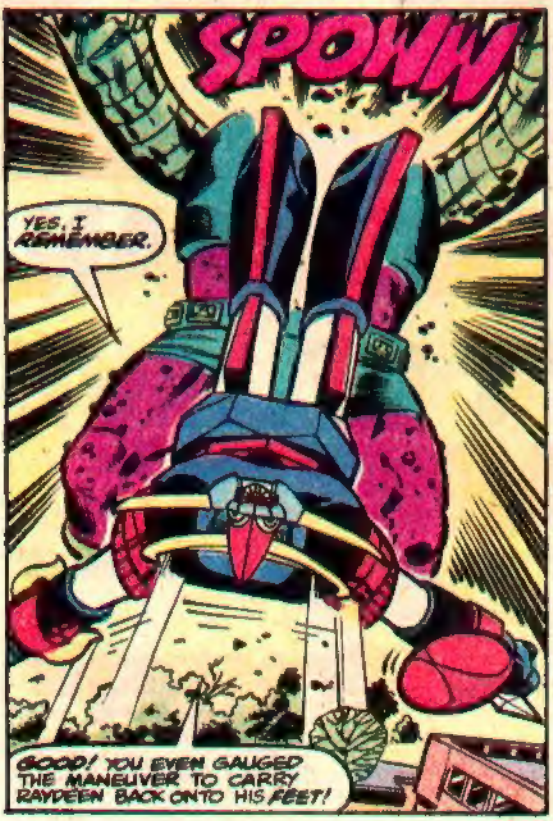
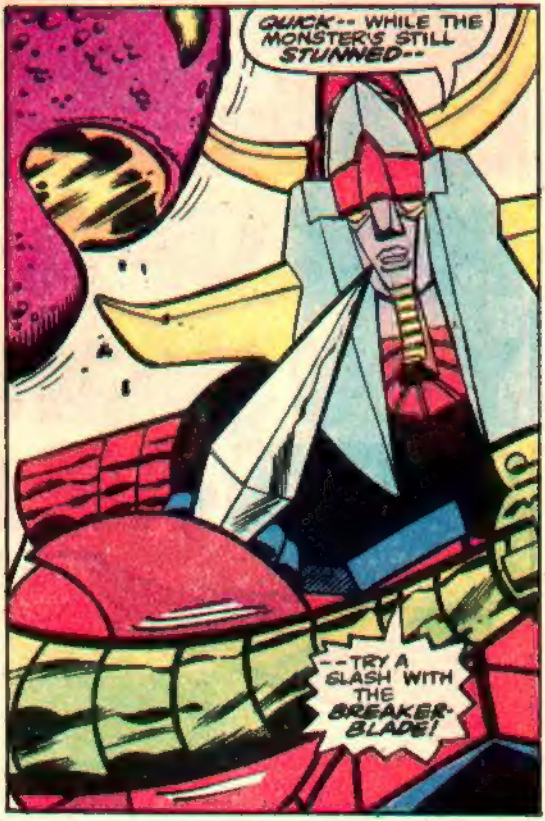
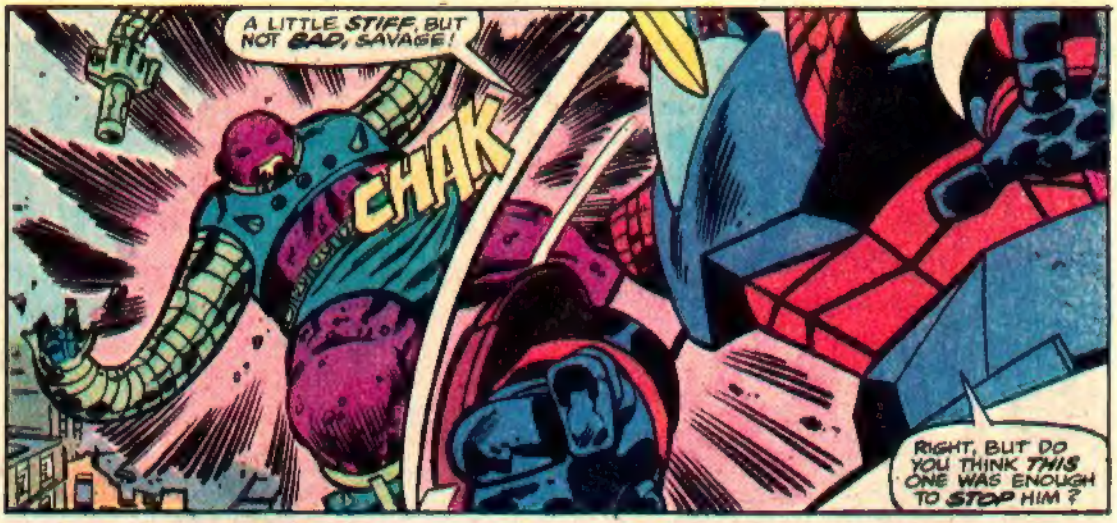
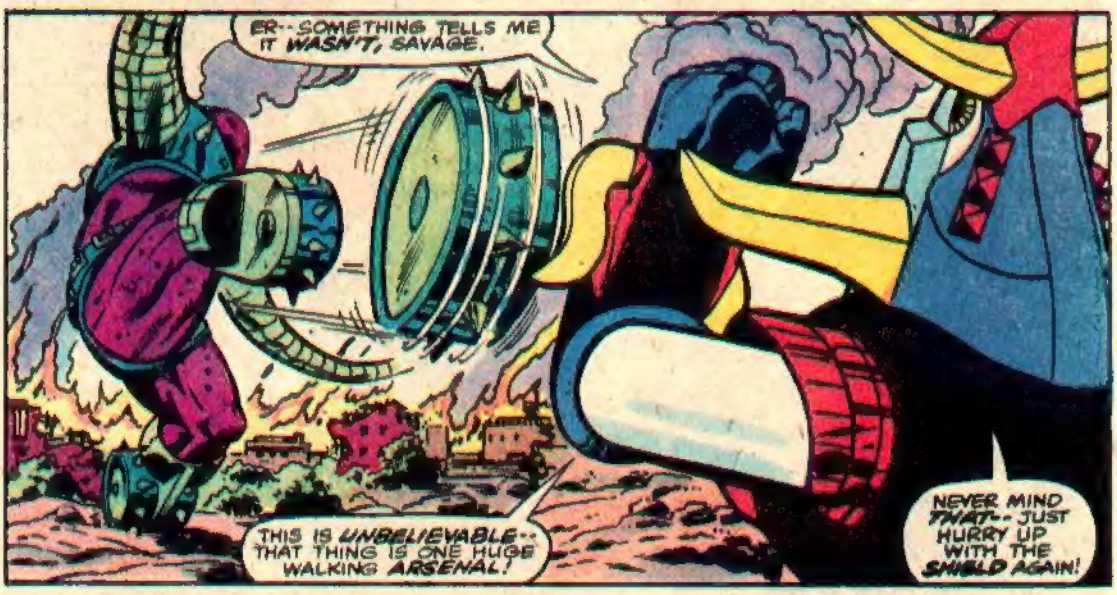

BUT IT'S NO USE! AS SOON AS WE COUNTER ONE ATTACK, THIS ROK-KORR THROWS SOMETHING ELSE AT US!
CHOOM
WE'RE JUST NOT FAST ENOUGH YET!

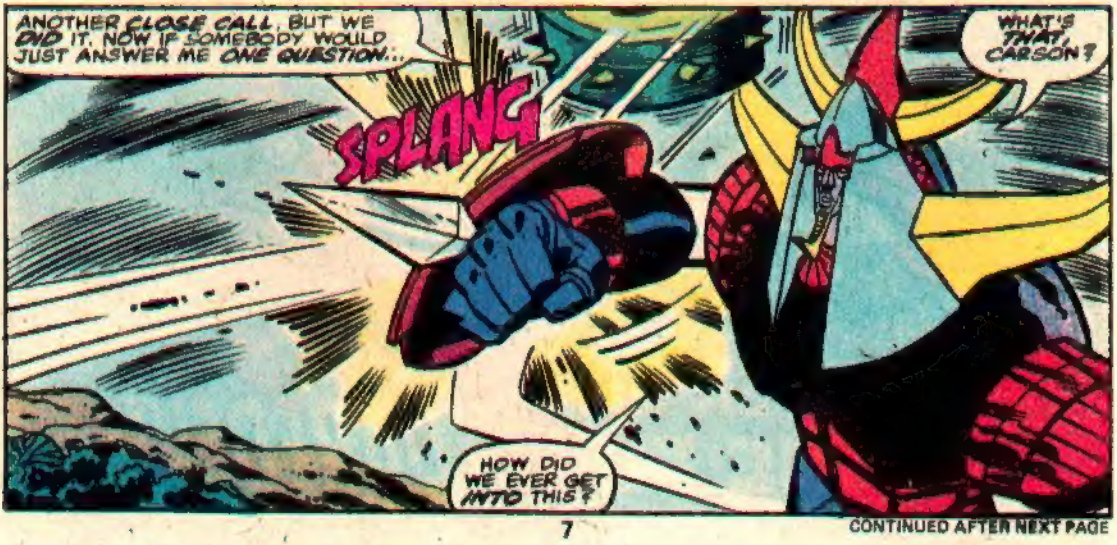

CAN'T GIVE UP NOW, SAVAGE -- NOT WITH ROK-KORR PRESSING DEEPER INTO THE CITY!
GOT TO FIGHT BACK BEFORE HE LANDS A KILLING BLOW!
GENJI, DO YOU REMEMBER HOW TO MAKE RAYDEEN ATTACK FROM THIS POSITION AND--?


SPOWW
YES, I REMEMBER.
GOOD! YOU EVEN GAUGED THE MANEUVER TO CARRY RAYDEEN BACK ONTO HIS FEET!


QUICK-- WHILE THE MONSTER'S STILL STUNNED--
--TRY A SLASH WITH THE BREAKER-BLADE!




ER--SOMETHING TELLS ME IT WASN'T, SAVAGE.
THIS IS UNBELIEVABLE--THAT THING IS ONE HUGE WALKING ARSENAL!
NEVER MIND THAT--JUST HURRY UP WITH THE SHIELD AGAIN!


ANOTHER CLOSE CALL, BUT WE DID IT. NOW IF SOMEBODY WOULD JUST ANSWER ME ONE QUESTION...
SPLANG
WHAT'S THAT, CARSON?
HOW DID WE EVER GET INTO THIS?

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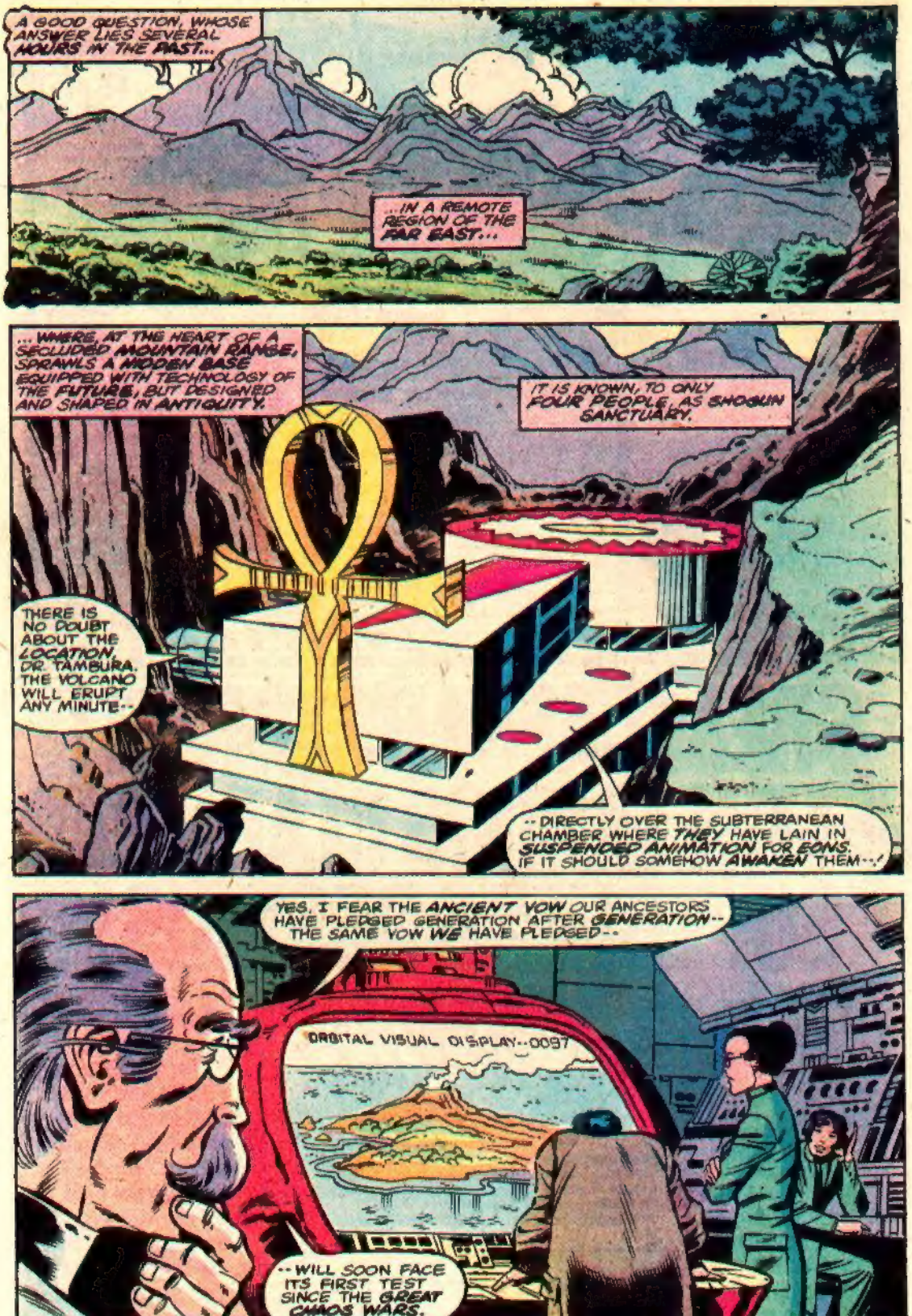
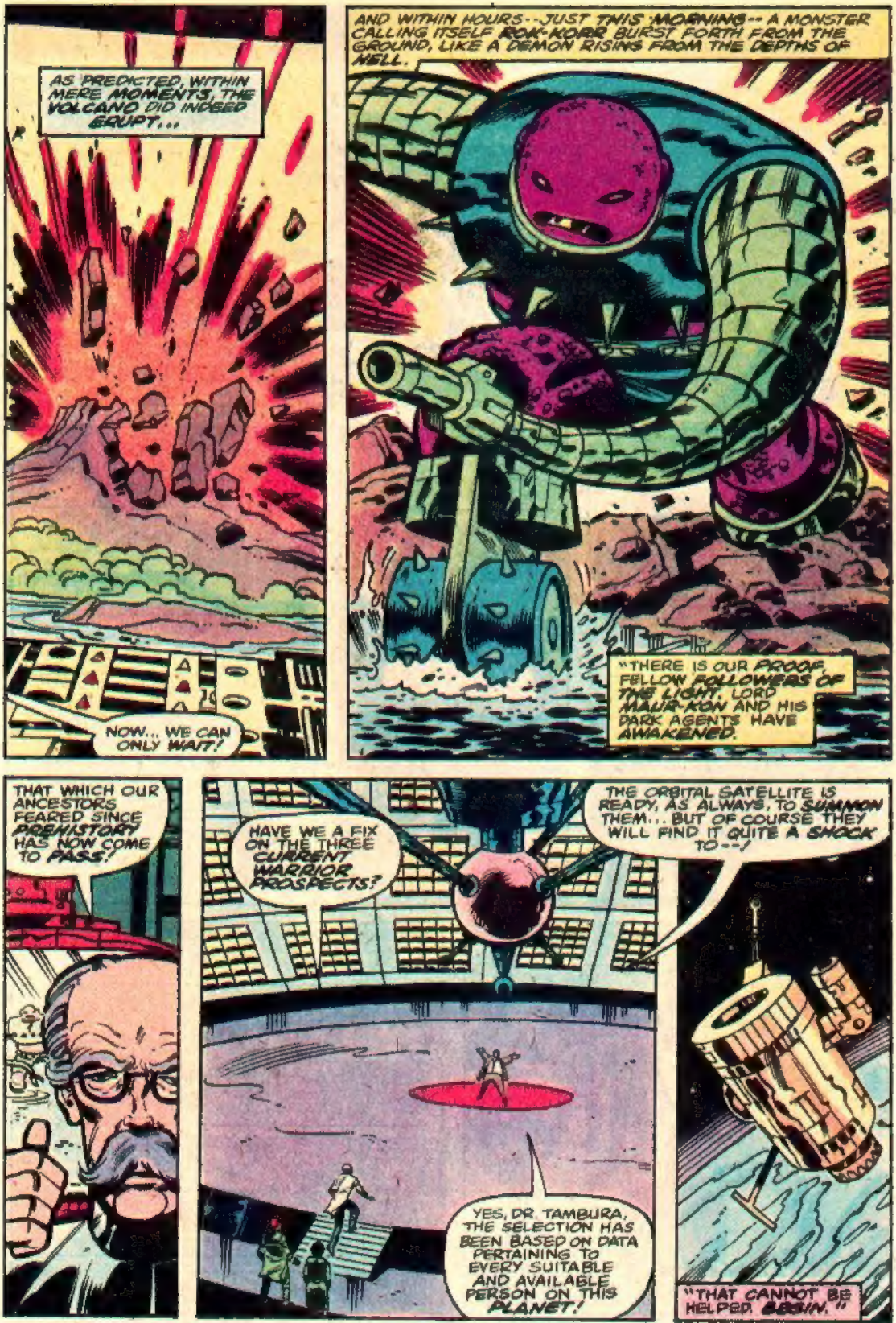

A GOOD QUESTION, WHOSE ANSWER LIES SEVERAL HOURS IN THE PAST...
...IN A REMOTE REGION OF THE FAR EAST...
...WHERE, AT THE HEART OF A SECLUDED MOUNTAIN RANGE, SPRAWLS A MODERN BASE EQUIPPED WITH TECHNOLOGY OF THE FUTURE, BUT DESIGNED AND SHAPED IN ANTIQUITY.
IT IS KNOWN, TO ONLY FOUR PEOPLE, AS SHOGUN SANCTUARY.
THERE IS NO DOUBT ABOUT THE LOCATION, DR. TAMBURA. THE VOLCANO WILL ERUPT ANY MINUTE--
--DIRECTLY OVER THE SUBTERRANEAN CHAMBER WHERE THEY HAVE LAIN IN SUSPENDED ANIMATION FOR EONS. IF IT SHOULD SOMEHOW AWAKEN THEM--!
YES, I FEAR THE ANCIENT VOW OUR ANCESTORS HAVE PLEDGED GENERATION AFTER GENERATION-- THE SAME VOW WE HAVE PLEDGED--
ORBITAL VISUAL DISPLAY--0097
--WILL SOON FACE ITS FIRST TEST SINCE THE GREAT CHAOS WARS.


AS PREDICTED, WITHIN MERE MOMENTS, THE VOLCANO DID INDEED ERUPT...
NOW... WE CAN ONLY WAIT!
AND WITHIN HOURS--JUST THIS MORNING--A MONSTER CALLING ITSELF ROK-KORR BURST FORTH FROM THE GROUND, LIKE A DEMON RISING FROM THE DEPTHS OF HELL.
"THERE IS OUR PROOF, FELLOW FOLLOWERS OF THE LIGHT. LORD MAUR-KON AND HIS DARK AGENTS HAVE AWAKENED.
THAT WHICH OUR ANCESTORS FEARED SINCE PREHISTORY HAS NOW COME TO PASS!
HAVE WE A FIX ON THE THREE CURRENT WARRIOR PROSPECTS?
YES, DR. TAMBURA, THE SELECTION HAS BEEN BASED ON DATA PERTAINING TO EVERY SUITABLE AND AVAILABLE PERSON ON THIS PLANET!
THE ORBITAL SATELLITE IS READY, AS ALWAYS, TO SUMMON THEM... BUT OF COURSE THEY WILL FIND IT QUITE A SHOCK TO--!
"THAT CANNOT BE HELPED, ERSIN."

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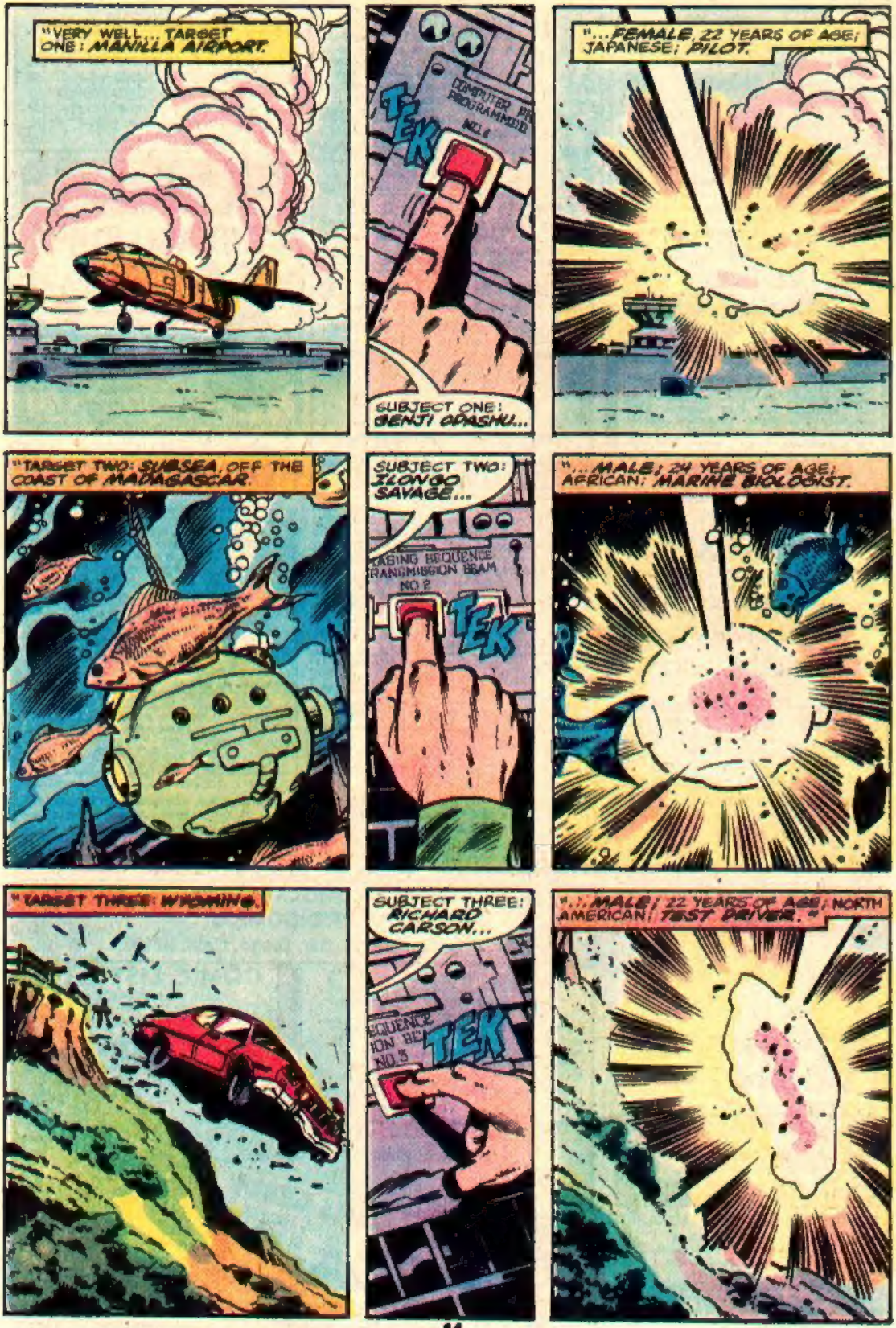
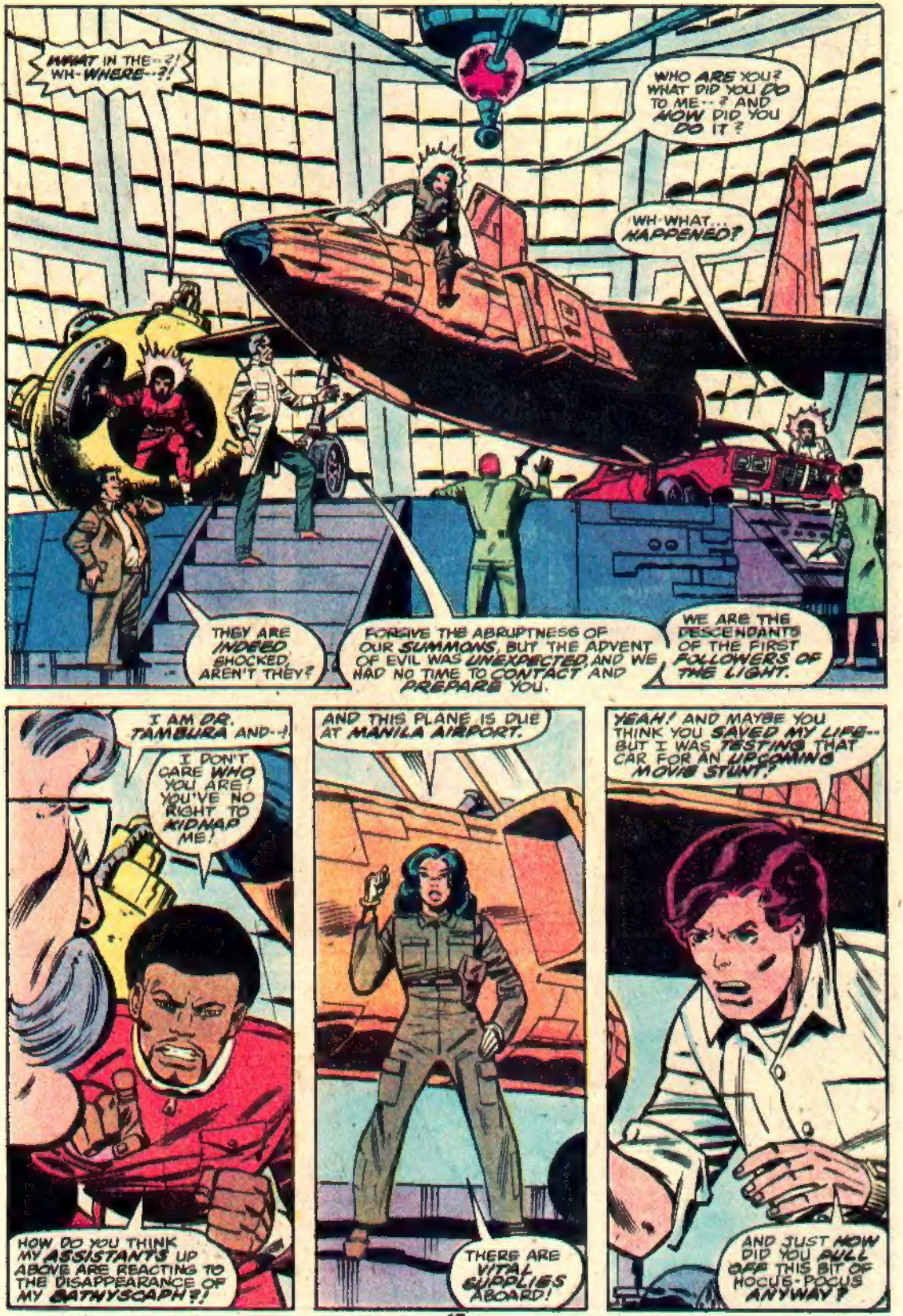
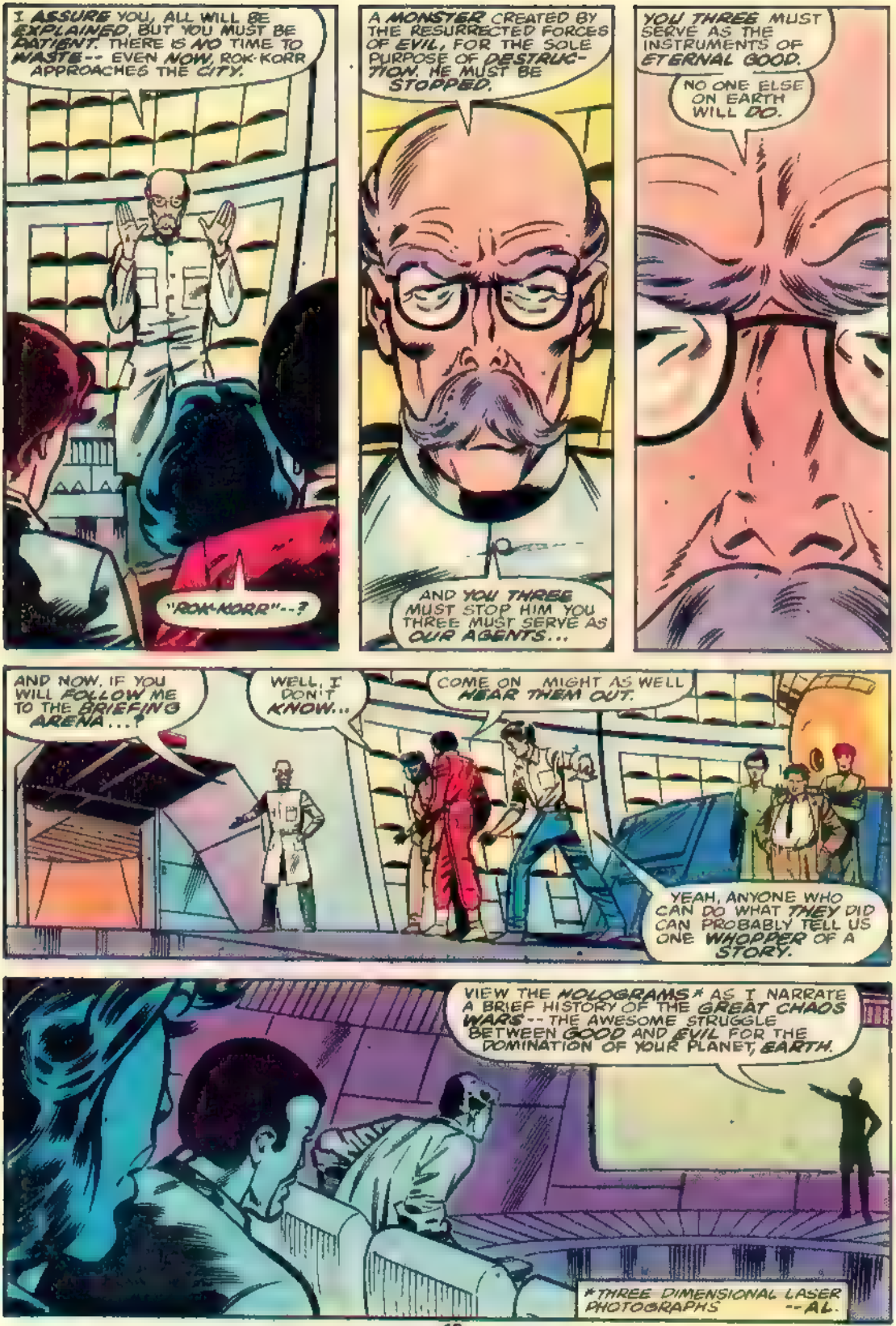
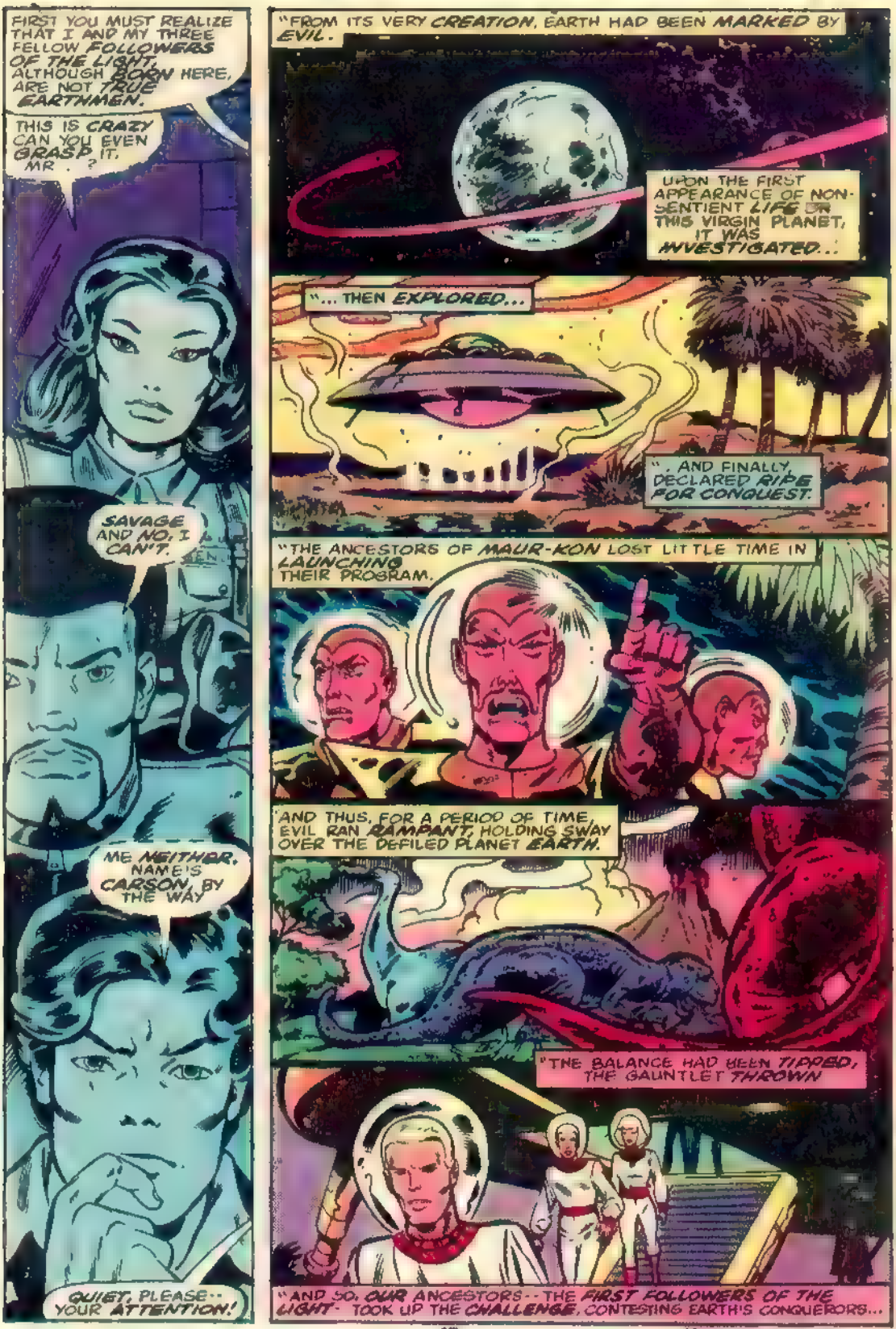

"VERY WELL... TARGET ONE: MANILLA AIRPORT.
TEK
SUBJECT ONE: BENJI OBASHU...
"...FEMALE, 22 YEARS OF AGE; JAPANESE; PILOT.
"TARGET TWO: SUBSEA, OFF THE COAST OF MADAGASCAR.
SUBJECT TWO: ILONGO SAVAGE...
TEK
"...MALE; 24 YEARS OF AGE; AFRICAN; MARINE BIOLOGIST.
"TARGET THREE: WYOMING.
SUBJECT THREE: RICHARD CARSON...
TEK
"...MALE; 22 YEARS OF AGE; NORTH AMERICAN; TEST DRIVER."


WHAT IN THE--?! WH-WHERE--?!
WHO ARE YOU? WHAT DID YOU DO TO ME--? AND HOW DID YOU DO IT?
WH-WHAT... HAPPENED?
THEY ARE INDEED SHOCKED, AREN'T THEY?
FORGIVE THE ABRUPTNESS OF OUR SUMMONS, BUT THE ADVENT OF EVIL WAS UNEXPECTED AND WE HAD NO TIME TO CONTACT AND PREPARE YOU.
WE ARE THE DESCENDANTS OF THE FIRST FOLLOWERS OF THE LIGHT.
I AM DR. TAMBURA AND--!
I DON'T CARE WHO YOU ARE! YOU'VE NO RIGHT TO KIDNAP ME!
HOW DO YOU THINK MY ASSISTANTS UP ABOVE ARE REACTING TO THE DISAPPEARANCE OF MY BATHYSCAPH?!
AND THIS PLANE IS DUE AT MANILA AIRPORT.
THERE ARE VITAL SUPPLIES ABOARD!
YEAH! AND MAYBE YOU THINK YOU SAVED MY LIFE-- BUT I WAS TESTING THAT CAR FOR AN UPCOMING MOVIE STUNT!
AND JUST HOW DID YOU PULL OFF THIS BIT OF HOCUS-POCUS ANYWAY?


I ASSURE YOU, ALL WILL BE EXPLAINED, BUT YOU MUST BE PATIENT. THERE IS NO TIME TO WASTE -- EVEN NOW, ROK-KORR APPROACHES THE CITY.
"ROK-KORR"--?
A MONSTER CREATED BY THE RESURRECTED FORCES OF EVIL, FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF DESTRUCTION. HE MUST BE STOPPED.
AND YOU THREE MUST STOP HIM YOU THREE MUST SERVE AS OUR AGENTS...
YOU THREE MUST SERVE AS THE INSTRUMENTS OF ETERNAL GOOD.
NO ONE ELSE ON EARTH WILL DO.
AND NOW, IF YOU WILL FOLLOW ME TO THE BRIEFING ARENA...?
WELL, I DON'T KNOW...
COME ON MIGHT AS WELL HEAR THEM OUT.
YEAH, ANYONE WHO CAN DO WHAT THEY DID CAN PROBABLY TELL US ONE WHOPPER OF A STORY.
VIEW THE HOLOGRAMS* AS I NARRATE A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE GREAT CHAOS WARS -- THE AWESOME STRUGGLE BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL FOR THE DOMINATION OF YOUR PLANET, EARTH.
*THREE DIMENSIONAL LASER PHOTOGRAPHS --AL.


FIRST YOU MUST REALIZE THAT I AND MY THREE FELLOW FOLLOWERS OF THE LIGHT, ALTHOUGH BORN HERE, ARE NOT TRUE EARTHMEN.
THIS IS CRAZY CAN YOU EVEN GRASP IT, MR. ?
SAVAGE AND NO, I CAN'T.
ME NEITHER. NAME IS CARSON, BY THE WAY.
QUIET, PLEASE... YOUR ATTENTION!
"FROM ITS VERY CREATION, EARTH HAD BEEN MARKED BY EVIL.
UPON THE FIRST APPEARANCE OF NON-SENTIENT LIFE ON THIS VIRGIN PLANET, IT WAS INVESTIGATED...
"... THEN EXPLORED...
"... AND FINALLY, DECLARED RIPE FOR CONQUEST.
"THE ANCESTORS OF MAUR-KON LOST LITTLE TIME IN LAUNCHING THEIR PROGRAM.
AND THUS, FOR A PERIOD OF TIME, EVIL RAN RAMPANT, HOLDING SWAY OVER THE DEFILED PLANET EARTH.
"THE BALANCE HAD BEEN TIPPED, THE GAUNTLET THROWN
"AND SO, OUR ANCESTORS--THE FIRST FOLLOWERS OF THE LIGHT--TOOK UP THE CHALLENGE, CONTESTING EARTH'S CONQUERORS...

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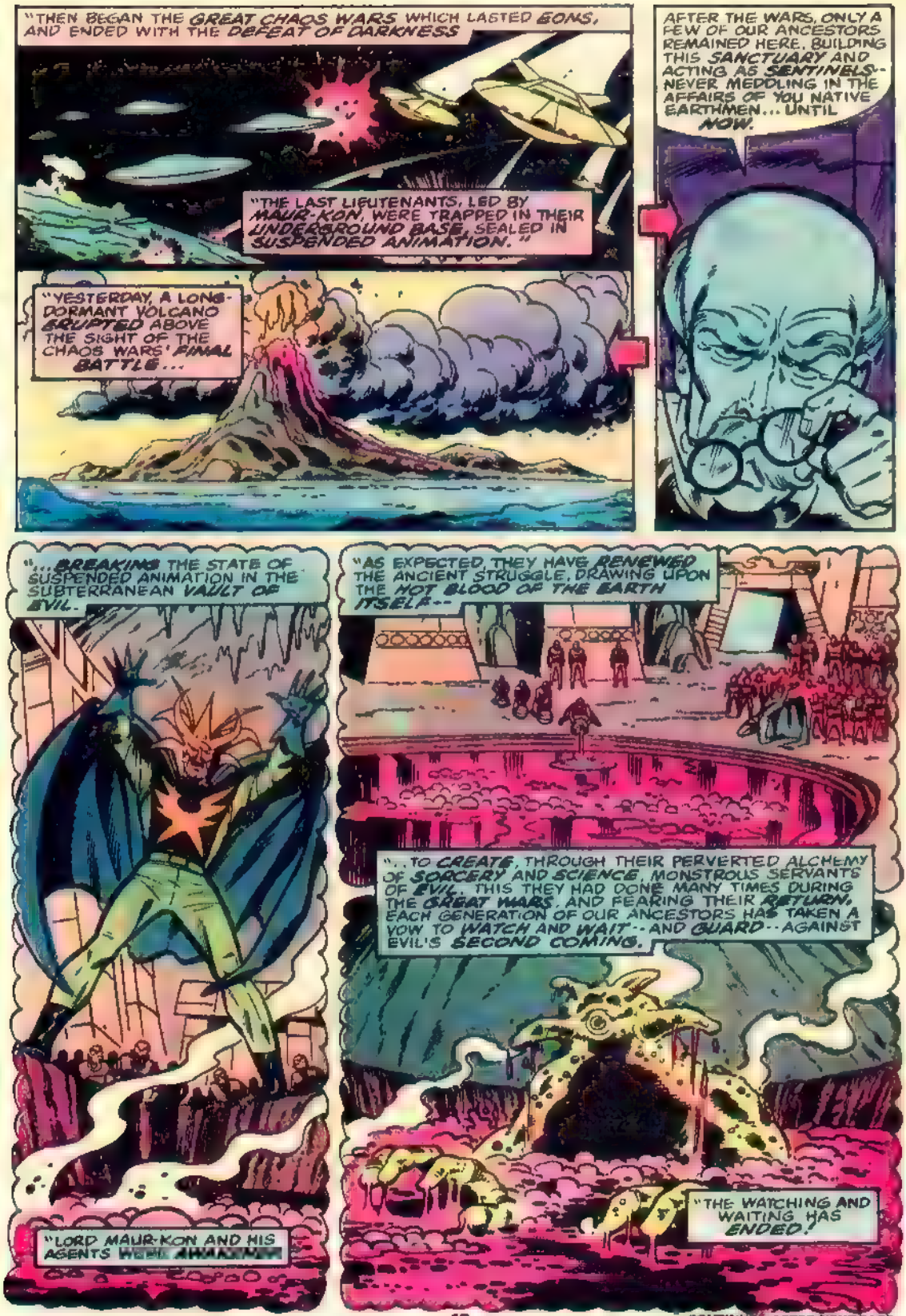
"THEN BEGAN THE GREAT CHAOS WARS WHICH LASTED EONS, AND ENDED WITH THE DEFEAT OF DARKNESS
"THE LAST LIEUTENANTS, LED BY MAUR-KON, WERE TRAPPED IN THEIR UNDERGROUND BASE, SEALED IN SUSPENDED ANIMATION."
"YESTERDAY, A LONG-DORMANT VOLCANO ERUPTED ABOVE THE SIGHT OF THE CHAOS WARS' FINAL BATTLE...
AFTER THE WARS, ONLY A FEW OF OUR ANCESTORS REMAINED HERE, BUILDING THIS SANCTUARY AND ACTING AS SENTINELS--NEVER MEDDLING IN THE AFFAIRS OF YOU NATIVE EARTHMEN... UNTIL NOW.
"...BREAKING THE STATE OF SUSPENDED ANIMATION IN THE SUBTERRANEAN VAULT OF EVIL.
"LORD MAUR-KON AND HIS AGENTS
"AS EXPECTED, THEY HAVE RENEWED THE ANCIENT STRUGGLE, DRAWING UPON THE HOT BLOOD OF THE EARTH ITSELF--
"...TO CREATE, THROUGH THEIR PERVERTED ALCHEMY OF SORCERY AND SCIENCE, MONSTROUS SERVANTS OF EVIL. THIS THEY HAD DONE MANY TIMES DURING THE GREAT WARS, AND FEARING THEIR RETURN, EACH GENERATION OF OUR ANCESTORS HAS TAKEN A VOW TO WATCH AND WAIT--AND GUARD--AGAINST EVIL'S SECOND COMING.
"THE WATCHING AND WAITING HAS ENDED!

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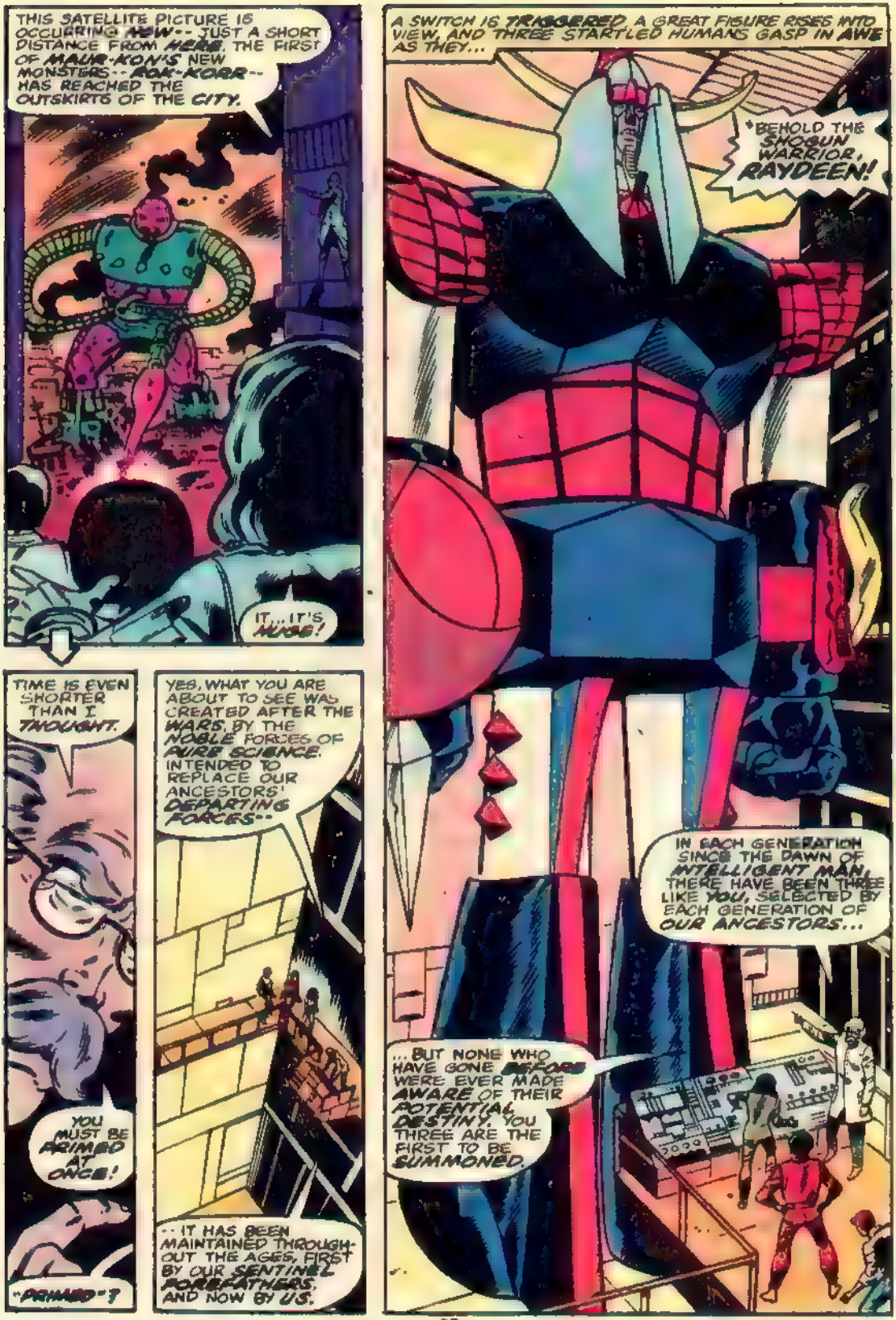
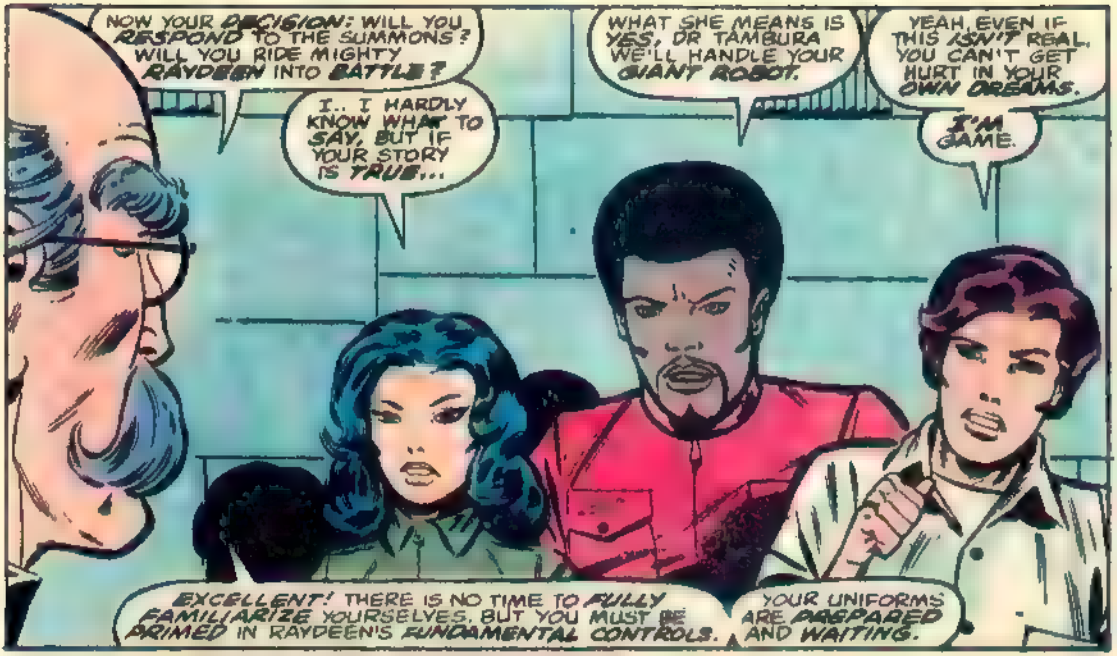
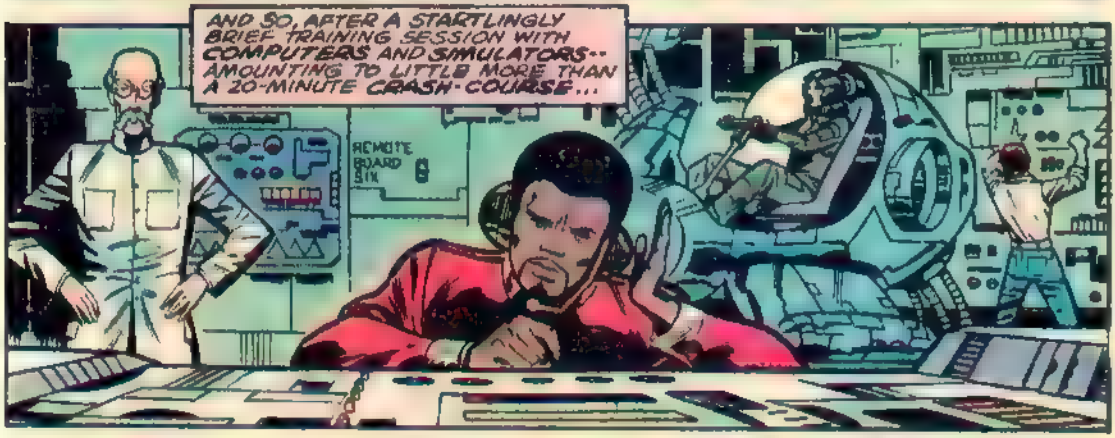
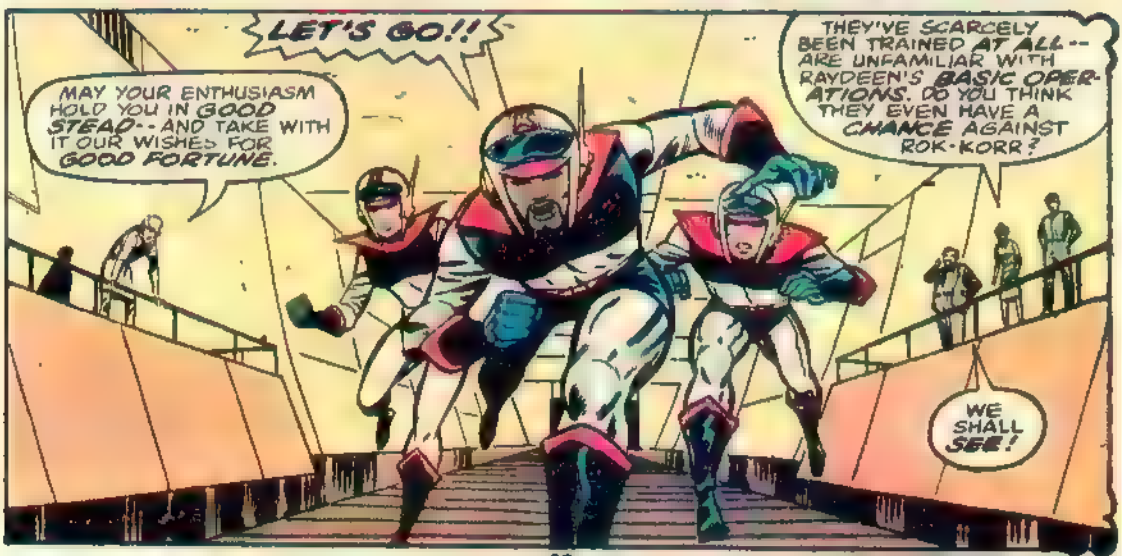

THIS SATELLITE PICTURE IS OCCURRING NOW-- JUST A SHORT DISTANCE FROM HERE. THE FIRST OF MAUK-KON'S NEW MONSTERS--BOAK-KORR--HAS REACHED THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY.
IT...IT'S HUGE!
A SWITCH IS TRIGGERED. A GREAT FIGURE RISES INTO VIEW, AND THREE STARTLED HUMANS GASP IN AWE AS THEY...
"BEHOLD THE SHOGUN WARRIOR, RAYDEEN!
IN EACH GENERATION SINCE THE DAWN OF INTELLIGENT MAN, THERE HAVE BEEN THREE LIKE YOU, SELECTED BY EACH GENERATION OF OUR ANCESTORS...
...BUT NONE WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE WERE EVER MADE AWARE OF THEIR POTENTIAL DESTINY. YOU THREE ARE THE FIRST TO BE SUMMONED.
YES, WHAT YOU ARE ABOUT TO SEE WAS CREATED AFTER THE WARS, BY THE NOBLE FORCES OF AURA SCIENCE. INTENDED TO REPLACE OUR ANCESTORS' DEPARTING FORCES--
--IT HAS BEEN MAINTAINED THROUGHOUT THE AGES, FIRST BY OUR SENTINEL FOREFATHERS, AND NOW BY US.
TIME IS EVEN SHORTER THAN I THOUGHT.
YOU MUST BE ARMED AT ONCE!
"ARMED"?


NOW YOUR DECISION: WILL YOU RESPOND TO THE SUMMONS? WILL YOU RIDE MIGHTY RAYDEEN INTO BATTLE?
I.. I HARDLY KNOW WHAT TO SAY, BUT IF YOUR STORY IS TRUE...
WHAT SHE MEANS IS YES, DR TAMBURA WE'LL HANDLE YOUR GIANT ROBOT.
YEAH, EVEN IF THIS ISN'T REAL, YOU CAN'T GET HURT IN YOUR OWN DREAMS.
I'M GAME.
EXCELLENT! THERE IS NO TIME TO FULLY FAMILIARIZE YOURSELVES, BUT YOU MUST BE PRIMED IN RAYDEEN'S FUNDAMENTAL CONTROLS.
YOUR UNIFORMS ARE PREPARED AND WAITING.


AND SO, AFTER A STARTLINGLY BRIEF TRAINING SESSION WITH COMPUTERS AND SIMULATORS-- AMOUNTING TO LITTLE MORE THAN A 20-MINUTE CRASH-COURSE...
REMOTE BOARD SIX


LET'S GO!!
MAY YOUR ENTHUSIASM HOLD YOU IN GOOD STEAD-- AND TAKE WITH IT OUR WISHES FOR GOOD FORTUNE.
THEY'VE SCARCELY BEEN TRAINED AT ALL-- ARE UNFAMILIAR WITH RAYDEEN'S BASIC OPERATIONS. DO YOU THINK THEY EVEN HAVE A CHANCE AGAINST ROK-KORR?
WE SHALL SEE!

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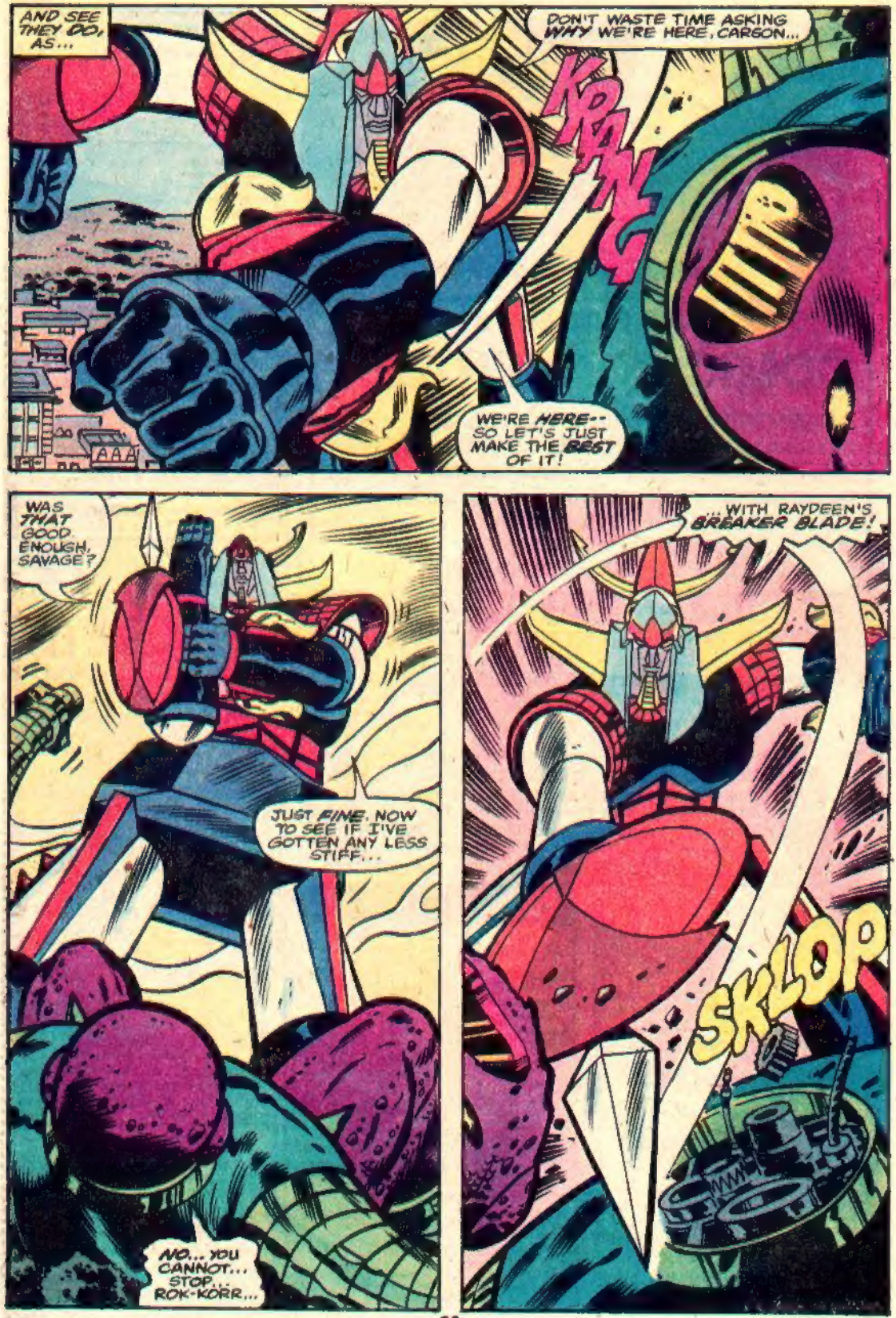
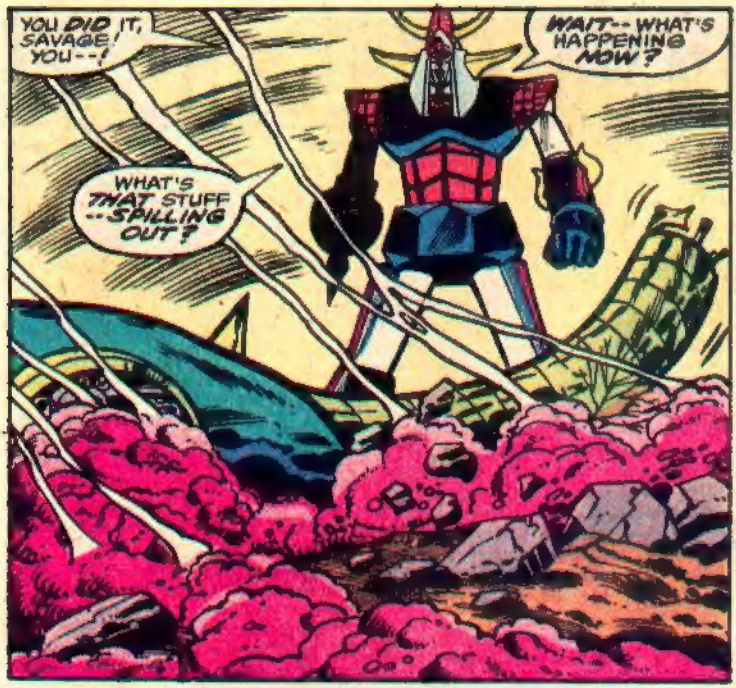
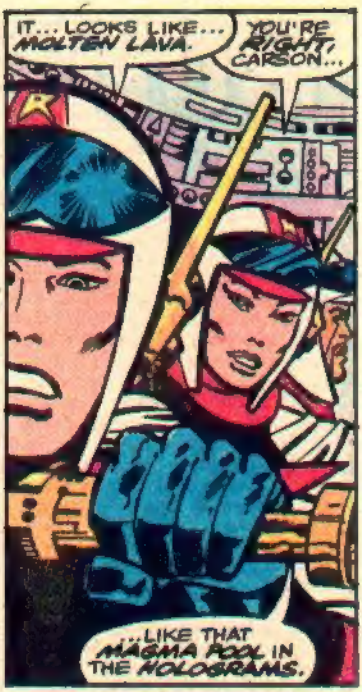
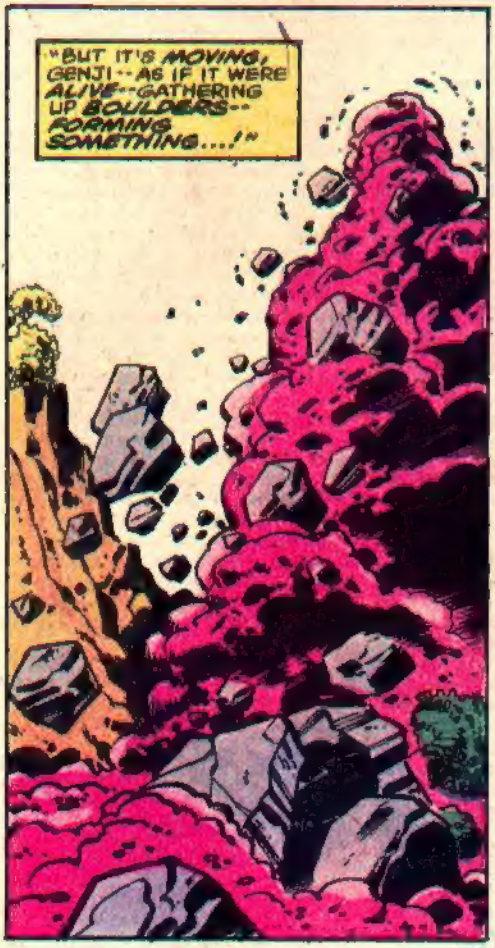
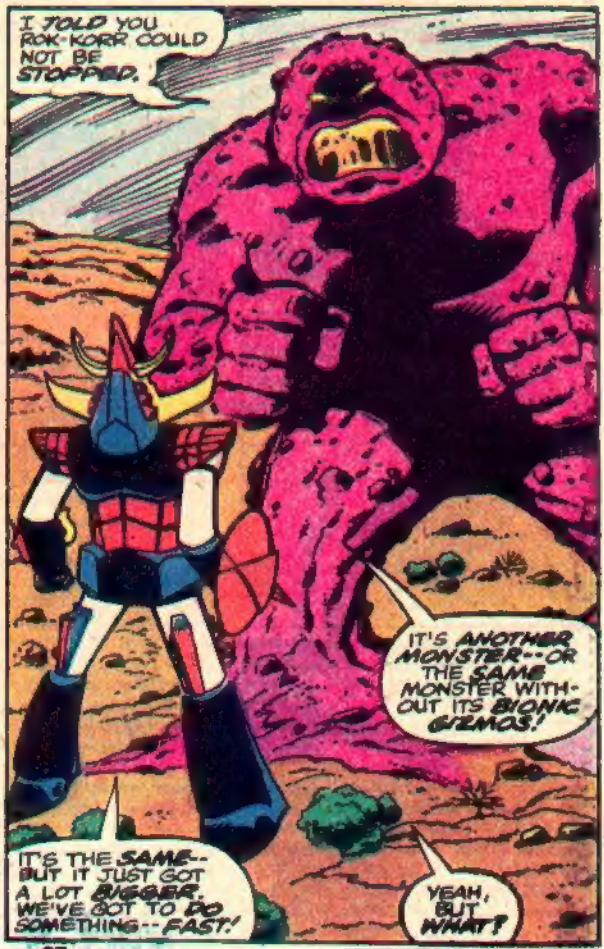

AND SEE THEY DO, AS...
DON'T WASTE TIME ASKING WHY WE'RE HERE, CARSON...
KRANG
WE'RE HERE-- SO LET'S JUST MAKE THE BEST OF IT!
WAS THAT GOOD ENOUGH, SAVAGE?
JUST FINE. NOW TO SEE IF I'VE GOTTEN ANY LESS STIFF...
NO... YOU CANNOT... STOP... ROK-KORR...
...WITH RAYDEEN'S BREAKER BLADE!
SKLOP








I TOLD YOU ROK-KORR COULD NOT BE STOPPED.
IT'S ANOTHER MONSTER--OR THE SAME MONSTER WITHOUT ITS BIONIC GIZMOS!
IT'S THE SAME--BUT IT JUST GOT A LOT BIGGER. WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING--FAST!
YEAH, BUT WHAT?

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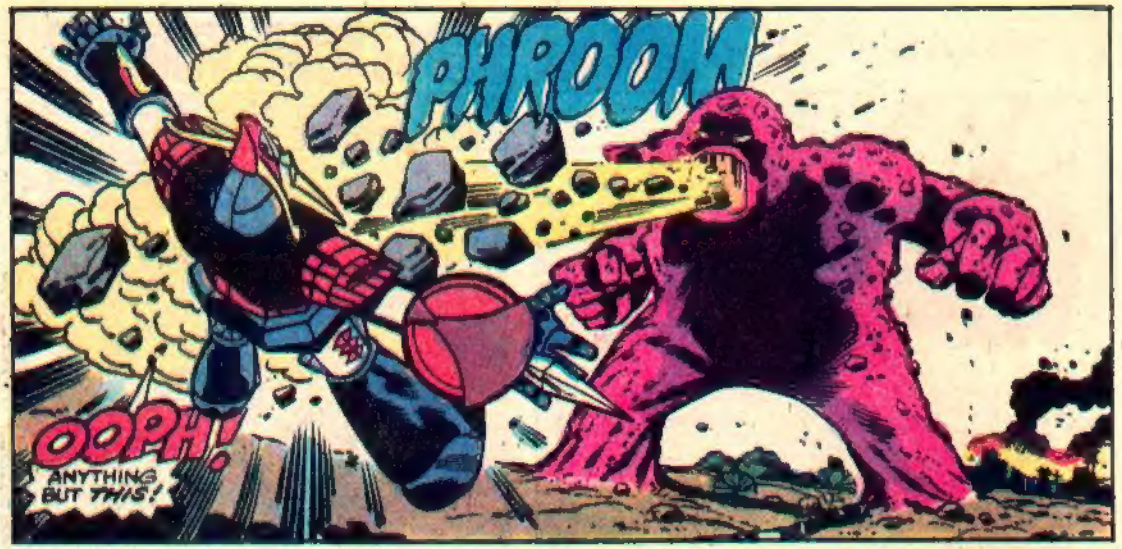
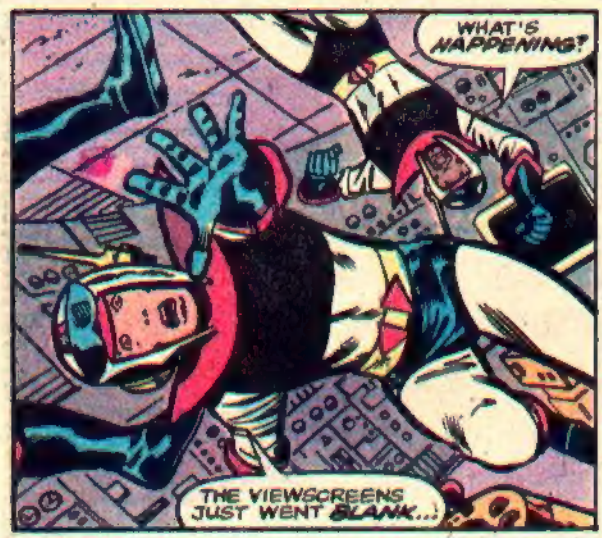
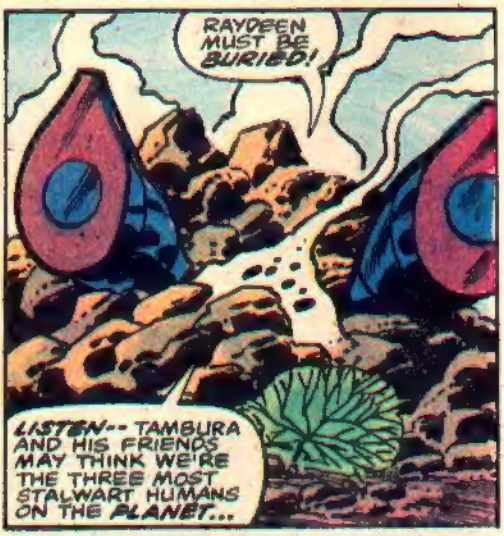
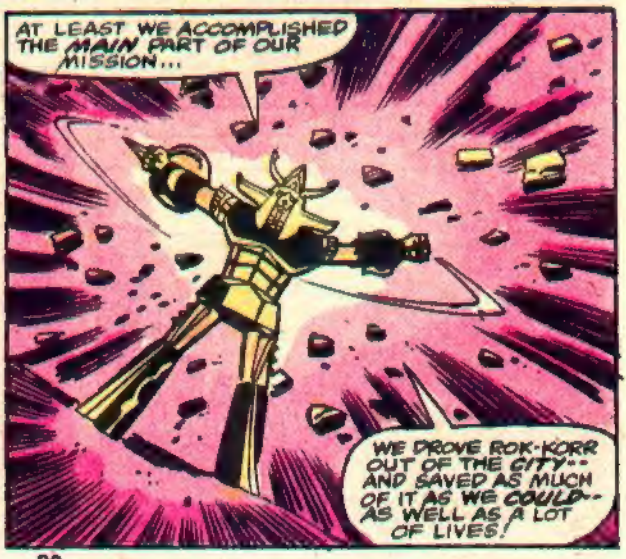
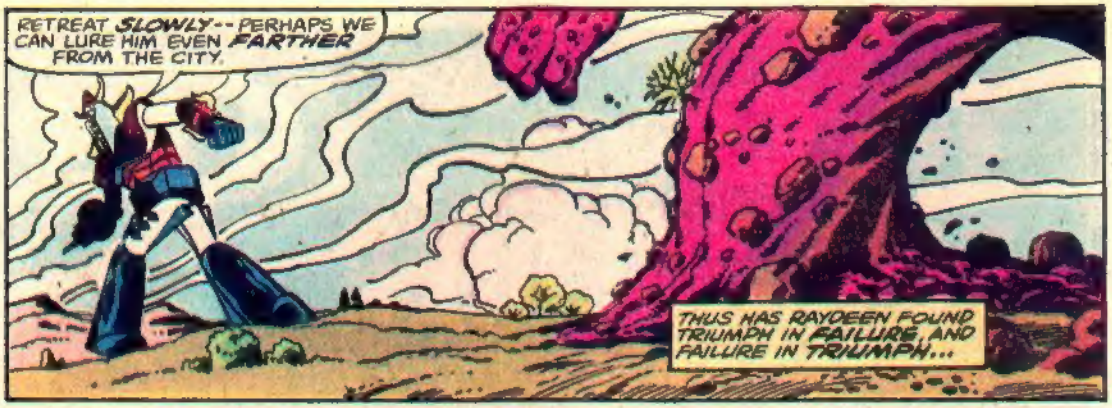

PHROOM
OOPH!
ANYTHING BUT THIS!


WHAT'S HAPPENING?
THE VIEWSCREENS JUST WENT BLANK...

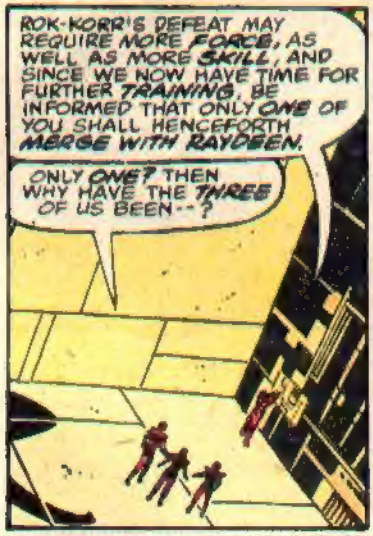

RAYDEEN MUST BE BURIED!
LISTEN-- TAMBURA AND HIS FRIENDS MAY THINK WE'RE THE THREE MOST STALWART HUMANS ON THE PLANET...

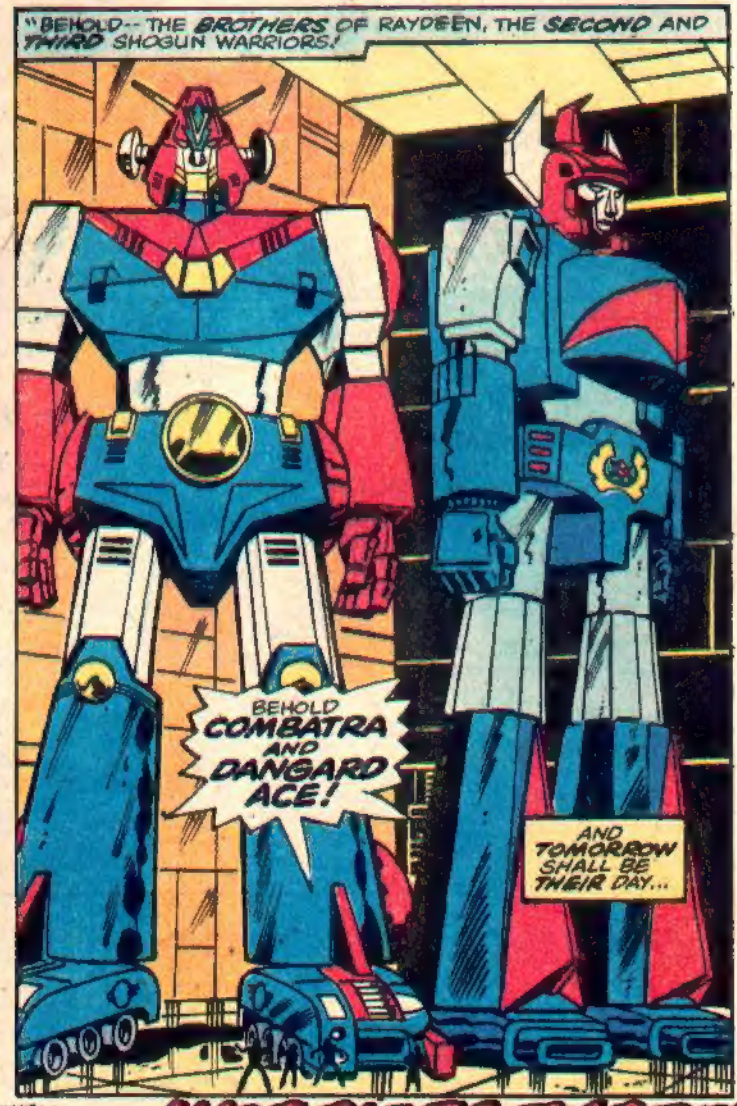
...BUT I KNOW WHEN I'M OUTCLASSED. WE'RE TOO NEW AT THIS TO USE RAYDEEN'S FULL POWER.
I AGREE, SAVAGE.
THEN I SAY WE GET RAYDEEN OUT OF HERE-- AND BACK TO THE SANCTUARY FOR FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS.


AT LEAST WE ACCOMPLISHED THE MAIN PART OF OUR MISSION...
WE DROVE ROK-KORR OUT OF THE CITY-- AND SAVED AS MUCH OF IT AS WE COULD-- AS WELL AS A LOT OF LIVES!


RETREAT SLOWLY-- PERHAPS WE CAN LURE HIM EVEN FARTHER FROM THE CITY.
THUS HAS RAYDEEN FOUND TRIUMPH IN FAILURE, AND FAILURE IN TRIUMPH...

...AS THREE WEARY HUMANS RETURN TO SHOGUN SANCTUARY...
...DECOYED ROK-KORR INTO THE MOUNTAINS. HE'LL BE LOST FOR A WHILE, BUT--
YES, OUR MONITORS RECEIVE RAYDEEN'S EVERY PERCEPTION. WE SAW EVERYTHING!


ROK-KORR'S DEFEAT MAY REQUIRE MORE FORCE, AS WELL AS MORE SKILL, AND SINCE WE NOW HAVE TIME FOR FURTHER TRAINING, BE INFORMED THAT ONLY ONE OF YOU SHALL HENCEFORTH MERGE WITH RAYDEEN.
ONLY ONE? THEN WHY HAVE THE THREE OF US BEEN--?


"BEHOLD-- THE BROTHERS OF RAYDEEN, THE SECOND AND THIRD SHOGUN WARRIORS!
BEHOLD COMBATRA AND DANGARD ACE!
AND TOMORROW SHALL BE THEIR DAY...

NEXT ISSUE: THE LEGEND GROWS: RAYDEEN, COMBATRA, DANGARD ACE, MAUR-KON, ROK-KORR, CARSON, SAVAGE, GENJI, TAMBURA, FIREHAWK, AND MORE, ALL IN-- **WARRIORS THREE!**